

Newsletter

CEOS/IDN

Welcome to Budapest! HUNAGI to Host WGISS 32 in Hungary

By Gábor Remetey-Fülöpp, Hungarian Association for GI (Geo-Information), HUNAGI

The upcoming meeting of WGISS 32, planned for September 26-30, 2011 will be hosted by the Hungarian Association for GI (Geo-Information) (HUNAGI) in Budapest, Hungary.

Budapest is known for its natural beauty, uniquely built environment and turbulent cultural life. Despite working diligently for a week, WGISS members will surely have the opportunity to look around and taste the feeling of being in an enchanting, receptive city—especially in the year in which the Hungarian capital celebrates the 200th anniversary of the birth of Ferenc Liszt, the great travelling composer with numerous cultural programs.

Recently, Hungary successfully accomplished the Hungarian EU (European Union) Council of Presidency. A series of professional programs have been arranged by the government involving academia, along with the private and civil sectors as well. HUNAGI was pleased to be invited to take part by contributing: 1.) to workshops on emerging future information communication technologies. 2.) to the space segment of the coming European research and innovation strategy framework, Internet of Things, Cadastre and SDI, to mention only a few. HUNAGI even organized a Dissemination Workshop of the European Plan for all project empha-



Budapest Parliament

sizing the best practices of spatial planning technologies and their digital data needs.

HUNAGI is a non-profit, interdisciplinary umbrella association founded in 1994 with 88 institutions and organisations as members. Its mission is to facilitate the availability, accessibility and usability of Geo-Information while its objectives include to promote, stimulate, encourage, support the development and use of GI its associated technologies and to strengthen the institutional links among the multidisciplinary GI communities. HUNAGI supports the implementation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure by raising awareness, networking, knowledge transfer and information dissemination. Five years ago when HUNAGI and its member EOGeo Hungary Foundation hosted the WGISS 21, the WGISS

Chairman at that time was Ivan Petitville of ESA, and Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association Executive Director, Prof. Harlan Onsrud, agreed to establish a liaison between WGISS and GSDI. At that time a Hungarian member of the Board of Directors of GSDI Association was assigned to act as liaison.

As part of the WGISS 32, a session will be arranged to highlight some Earth Observation and GI related developments and applications of HUNAGI members, including the Hungarian Meteorological Service (OMSZ), the Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing (FÖMI), GeoAdat Ltd, and three leading Universities: ELTE, BME and BCE. WGISS-32 will be addressed by HUNAGI and the Hungarian Space Research Office of the Ministry of National Development.

HUNAGI contacts:
Gabor Remetey-Fülöpp
gabor.remetey@gmail.com
Andras Rab rabandris@gmail.com
Event website is linked from wgiss.ceos.org

ELTE: Loránt Eötvös University of Sciences
BME: Budapest University of Technology and Economics
BCE: Corvinus University, Budapest

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Budapest: “The Pearl of Danube”

By Amber Reddick-Smith and Nataki Duncan, GCMD/IDN Interns



Budapest, one of the most beautiful cities in the world, is proclaimed to be the “Pearl of the Danube”. It offers many means of entertainment for tourists and Hungarians, such as thermal baths, restaurants, museums, the thrill of the night life, and the serenity of the countryside. The diverse culture of Budapest can be seen in its striking architecture, heard in its music, and tasted in its food. Budapest is known for its beauty and modern fashion; however, the city did not acquire its exceptional status without overcoming hardships.

The first town built by the Celts, Budapest was formerly named Ak Ink—meaning “spring rich in water”. It was only 30 hectares and was densely populated. At the beginning of the Christian era, Romans began to occupy the land, establishing it as the capital of the province, Pannonia Inferior, which expanded over several western European countries including half of western Hungary. After an era filled with wars, Ak Ink was taken over by the Hun Empire. Four hundred years later, the dissolution of the Hun Empire ushered in a new era: the Great Migration. During this time, many ethnic groups migrated



throughout Pannonia until it became part of the Moravian Empire. At the end of the ninth century, after noticing the geostrategic layout of Obuda, one of the three towns that constitute Budapest, Hungarians established their prince’s castle near the crossing of the Danube, the river that flows through Budapest. The Hungarians took over the Moravian Empire, causing the empire to split. After expanding their territory, the Hungarians named the capital of their empire Budapest. It was a populated city that was made up of three towns – Buda, Pest, and Obuda. Under the Hungarians, the cities arts and crafts flourished. There were a variety of styles due to the diversity of the craftsmen, who hailed from Germany, Armenia, Greece, and Arabic countries. Only half of the inhabitants of Budapest were from Hungary. After a surge in economic growth, a decline later followed with a Turkish invasion and take over. The Turkish ruled part of Hungary for 150 years, the other by the Habsburg Empire. At the end of the 17th century, Hungary was liberated from Turkey’s hold, regaining its sovereignty. After the signing of the

Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867, the Habsburg Empire and the Hungarian government divided their territories to be separately run states all under a dual monarchy. Following the assassination of Austro-Hungary’s heir, the empire waged war on Serbia, which set off the First World War. After the split of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Budapest became the capital of the country. Just as stability was initiated, Budapest was further damaged by the effects of World War II. After WWII, under socialism, the state of Hungary was able to maintain a steady rate of development. By 1989, communism ended, and Budapest entered into the post-industrialization age. The leading role of the blue-collar industry was replaced by services and white-collar workforces. Budapest is surely back on track to gaining its past glory.

Now one of the UNESCO’s World Heritage sites, Budapest is a city that has plenty to offer. Once in Budapest, be sure to visit the Fisherman’s Bastion, a seven-tower wall located near the Matthias Castle; the St. Stephen’s Basilica, Budapest’s largest church, which houses the Szent Jobb, the mummified right hand of Hungary’s first king, St. Stephen; and the Széchenyi Baths, one of Europe’s largest spas. With so many other attractions, structures, and events, you will not be disappointed in the beautiful city of Budapest.

Living In Budapest

By Michael Morahan, CEOS Metadata Specialist

Budapest is the capital, cultural, political, and financial center of Hungary and is located at the heart of Europe. I have been living part-time in the Budapest area for 5 years. During this time, I discovered that Budapest is a city of festivals.

Every week, there is a different festival which ranges from musical concerts to chocolate, wine, and movies. The Budapest Spring Festival is a very popular event starting on the first day of spring with classical music concerts, theatre performances, dance shows and exhibitions. The Sziget Festival is a popular pop-rock music event held in August with musical bands local and from around the world. One of my favorite events is the Nemzeti Vágtá (National Gallop) festival, which was held on September 14-18. The festival is a celebration of Hungary's horse riding traditions. The year ends with the Budapest Christmas Fair with Hungarian traditional Christmas music and handcrafted gifts.



Nemzeti Vágtá, Budapest

During my first two years in Hungary, I lived in a small town outside Budapest named Pomáz. Many of the people from the town worked in Budapest. The town is small enough that many of the residents know each other. Pomáz is known for its small Serbian community and its Orthodox church. Also, you will find the Teleki-Wattay castle built in 1773. After the Second World War, the castle was used as an orphanage, but now it is a music school. Many people from Budapest come to the area because of the many hiking trails that lead in the Pilis Hills.



Teleki-Wattay castle, Pomáz

Now, I live in Budapest's district XI—famous for the Gellért hotel, Gellért Hill, Citadella, and Kosztolányi Dezső tér. The district is also known as Újbuda (New Buda) established in 1930. I live about 2 blocks from one of the Budapest bicycle trails. This section of the bike trail goes along the Danube River and passes by many of the famous sites like the Buda Castle and the Parliament. This district is trying to blend the new with the old with new building developments and older buildings being remodeled. Also, a new metro line (Metro 4) is being built in the district and is set to open in 2015. It will be interesting to see how this district will continue to grow and change in the next 5 years.



Citadella, Budapest

Hungry in Hungary!

By Michael Morahan, CEOS Metadata Specialist

Budapest has many choices for the “hungry” - from traditional Hungarian restaurants to African and Vietnamese eateries ([http://www.caboodle.hu/nc/directories/category/?user_bd_pi1\[showCategory\]=500](http://www.caboodle.hu/nc/directories/category/?user_bd_pi1[showCategory]=500)):

Located adjacent to Budapest, Varosliget (Budapest City Park (District 14)), the Gundel (<http://www.gundel.hu/>), is Budapest’s best-known restaurant. This restaurant is decorated in an early 20th century fashion, with masterpieces by Hungarian painters displayed on the walls. Try the famous Gundel pancake (palacsinta in Hungarian): it holds rich walnut stuffing and is served with velvety chocolate sauce.



If the Gundel does not fit your budget, on the other side of the Gundel is the Bagolyvár Étterem (Owl’s Castle) serving traditional Hungarian home-style cooking <http://www.bagolyvar.com/>.

The “For Sale” Pub (Hungarian) - 1053 Budapest, Vámház körút 2 – is one of Lola Olsen’s happiest memories from the May 2006 CEOS WGISS 21 meeting. She has kept the placemat from her visit during the intervening five.... Years.



Another great place to have lunch is the Fakanál Étterem (Hungarian – limited seating), which is located upstairs in the old market hall. Here you can find fresh fruit from one of the market stands. If you choose to investigate the local fare, go to the District XI Market upstairs to the eatery court. The market is located at the corner of Október 23. Utca, and Fehérvári út. If you are seeking fish&chips or a hamburger, “Becketts Irish Pub” is the place to go. It serves Hungarian, Irish, and American dishes (<http://www.becketts.hu/>).

For dessert, try the Budapest cukrászdák (confectioneries) and Coffee Houses:

Szamos Marcipán Kávéház (try the “Russian Cream” cake) - <http://www.corinthia.com/en/Budapest/dining-and-bars/restaurants/royal-kavehaz/>

Lukács Cukrászda – on the historical Andrassy út near the museums <http://www.lukascukraszda.com/>.

Jégbüfé – (where the locals go) -1053 Budapest, Ferenciek tere 10

Nagyi Palacsintázója (sweet and salty pancakes) - <http://www.nagyipali.hu/etlap.html> - 1011 **Budapest**, I. kerület, Batthyány tér 5



Beszél magyarul? (Do you speak Hungarian?)

By Michael Morahan

Jó napot! (formal), Szia! (informal)	('JOH nup-ot), ('SEE-ya)	Hello!
Kérem	(KAY-rhem)	Please
Elnézést	(EL-ney-zeysht)	Excuse me
Utca	(Oot-tsah)	Street
Mennyibe kerül?	('MEh-nyibhe kheruyl)	How much does it cost?
Ellenőrizze, kérem!	Ellen-ő-riz-ze, ké-rem	Check please!
Szeretném a...	(Se-ret-na-me a)	I would like...
Víz	(Veeze)	Water
Hol van ez?	(Hole von az)	Where is it?
Vasútállomás	(Vas·út·ál·lo·más)	Train Station
Repülőtér	(Re·pü·lő·tér)	Airport
Hol van a WC(vécé)?	('HOLE von o MOSH-doh)	Where is the bathroom?
Mi a neved?	(Me ah nev-ed)	What's your name?
(Your name) vagyok	(Your name VÅ-djok.)	I am (your name)
Jó reggelt	(Yoa REG-gelt)	Good morning
Jó napot	(Yoa NÅ-pot)	Good afternoon
Jó éjszakát	(Yoa EY-så-kat)	Good night
Viszontlátásra, Viszlát	(VEE-sont-la-tash-rå), (VEES-lat)	Goodbye
Kijárat	(Ki·já·rat)	Exit
Köszönöm	('KEHR-ser-nerm)	Thank you
Igen	('EE-ghen)	Yes
Nem	(NEM)	No
Budapest nagyon szép!	(Buda-pest na-john sape)	Budapest is very beautiful!

Correct pronunciations can be heard on Google translator.

Ramblings from a Recent WGISS Meeting Host

By John Faundeen, US Geological Survey, Archivist



This past June the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) was fortunate enough to host WGISS-31. We last had this opportunity in 2001 and enjoyed both events tremendously. The recent weeklong meeting was very different from the first, however. To begin with, the USGS was already planning to host WGISS-33 scheduled for April of 2012. Logistical efforts had been initiated and the site was going to either be Albuquerque, New Mexico or San Diego, California. Both locations were chosen because of the high number of sunny days and low rainy occurrences. Easy airline connections and facilities able to accommodate WGISS were also site factors. The devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan and all of our Japanese colleagues changed many plans. JAXA had made all of the arrangements to host WGISS-31 at Tsukuba. In consultations with the WGISS Executive Leadership, JAXA, and USGS management, it was agreed that the best way forward was to have USGS move their April 2012 hosting to June of 2011. That gave us a little over two months to

coordinate the event. After reserving all of the rooms at the USGS EROS Center, the next priority item was to arrange a hotel block convenient to the USGS meeting location. Our first calls to hotels were disappointing. A very large soccer tournament was scheduled for the weekend that WGISS representatives would arrive. We were advised to seek accommodations 45 minutes away. After much more checking, a hotel in a town nearer to Sioux Falls was located. While not ideal, it would work out. Continued efforts by USGS staff eventually convinced a local Sioux Falls hotel to host WGISS, which also solved the additional challenge of transportation to and from USGS. The hotel arranged for morning and evening rides for any WGISS participants not wanting to drive the 16 miles to the meeting location. We realized that facilitating the transportation would make the week a bit easier for the attendees.

Social elements are always an important part of international meetings, but sometimes prove challenging for a U.S. federal agency. Through non-hosted evening meals and creative USGS staff ideas, all breaks and evening meals were planned. The hotel location also provided several dining choices, as well as proximity to the Falls of the Sioux, which some participants were able to enjoy.

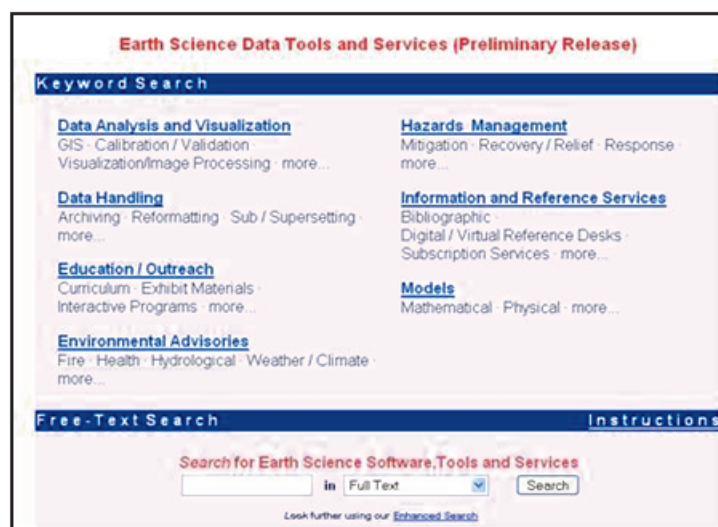
The meeting itself went smoothly. We did miss many of our Chinese colleagues who, unfortunately, did not have enough time to obtain Visas to the U.S. Both the 2001 and the 2011 WGISS meetings at the USGS had a common thread through them. The host had a hard time contributing to and learning from the actual meeting due to all of the logistical items that need attention during the week. Even with that in mind, I would highly recommend to any WGISS representative to consider hosting WGISS. It is well worth the effort put forth!



A Ten Year Prospective on Data-Related Services (SERFs)

By Tyler Stevens, IDN Data Services (SERF) Coordinator

A decade ago, the SERF proposal, which was submitted to the Earth Science Technology Office (ESTO), proposed to catalog Earth science services to aid researchers in finding software and tools that can be used with their data products. The IDN Task Team was developing the alpha version of a free-text search for data services using the Services Entry Resource Format (SERF) standard. The GCMD already had an infrastructure in place to accommodate data product descriptions. Service topic keywords proposed by GCMD staff were made available for comment and feedback to potential user groups, including the EOSDIS User Services Working Group (USWG), the Earth Science Information Partnership (ESIP) Federation, and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS). Service-related metadata authoring tools were created based on the existing metadata authoring tool for describing data products. The existing technology allowed the system to be used as a “model” to implement a new service related system.



SERF Homepage in 2001



Current SERF Homepage

Ten years and 2,300 descriptions later, the data-related services site is thriving and averages 1,500 unique visitors monthly. SERF contributions are provided from U.S. and international agencies, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions. The linkages between data and service descriptions are beneficial to users, who wish to discover and access data, access associated software, and create a “value-added” data product. For example, from the Related URL in the SERF, a user can discover a software tool and connect to data that is appropriate for use with that tool. CEOS WGISS has played a significant role in the success of the SERF. IDN representatives have served on the Data Services Task Team (now the Web Services Interest Group), where an IDN Data Services Portal was recommended to support the broader CEOS Earth Observation community and facilitate sharing and discovery of resources. Users can easily contribute metadata using the docBUILDER metadata authoring tool. Visit <http://gcmd.nasa.gov/User/authoring.html>

The IDN Adapts Earth Science Data Set Contributions for US GEO's GEOSS Data Core for Global Discovery

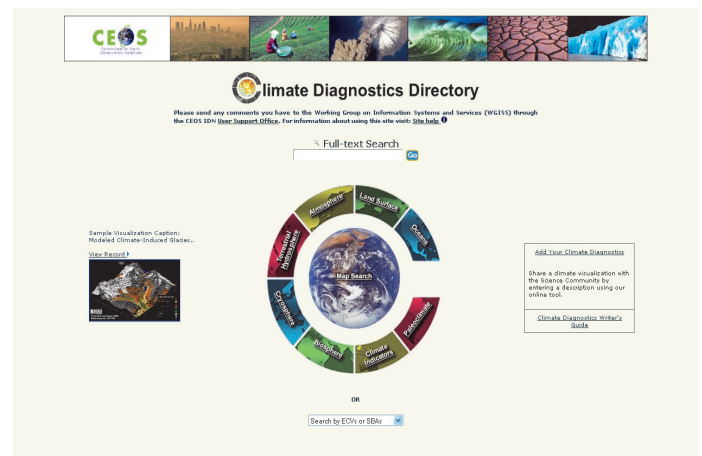
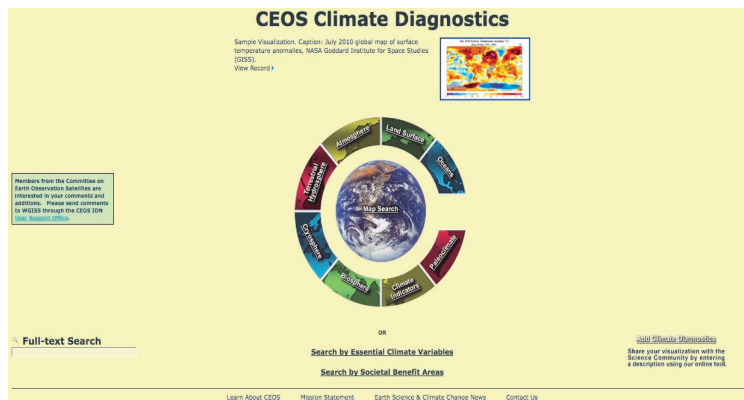
By Scott Ritz, GCMD Science Team Leader

The IDN plays an important role in making Earth science data sets discoverable by future scientists (students)—not just scientists throughout world. Through the IDN's Catalog Services for the Web (CSW), 20,985 metadata records in ISO-19115 format are available to the GEOSS portal. A subset of these records (contributed to the GCMD by US GEO partners) has been "tagged" to assure users that the particular data set is accessible free-of-charge or at-cost, according to the GEOSS Data-CORE guidelines. GEOSS Data CORE translates to "Data Collection of Open Resources for Everyone". A Data-CORE compliant data set according to the GEOSS Data Sharing Plan is one that is "contributed by the GEO community on the basis of full and open exchange (at no more than the cost of reproduction and distribution) and unrestricted access". When searching the GEOSS portal, users may perform specific searches for Data CORE-compliant data sets using these "tags". The "tags", as established by the GEOSS Data Sharing Task Force (DSTF), are "GEOSS Data Core" and "GEOSS No Monetary Charge", respectively. There are currently 11,075 US GEO records in the IDN CSW collection that have been identified and tagged as Data CORE-compliant. The US GEO records, characterized by the Data CORE "tags" within, are currently available in the GEOSS Clearinghouse through the IDN.

A Modified "Look" for The Climate Diagnostics Directory

By Michael Morahan, CEOS Metadata Specialist

In November 2008, the CEOS Climate Diagnostics Directory was publicly released and demonstrated at the GEO-V Plenary Sessions held in Bucharest, Romania. This directory remains among the top 5 most popular sites within the International Directory Network's (IDN).



On Friday, August 5th, the IDN released a new design for this directory. The goals are to display an aesthetic design and layout that is visually pleasing and easy to navigate. The design offers users helpful links to the "Climate Diagnostics Navigational Search Explanation Guide" and the "Climate Diagnostics Writer's Guide" to assist in the search and contribution to the directory. Also, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) logo was added to identify the directory as an IDN contribution to CEOS.

IDN Meeting Agenda for WGISS 32

CEOS WGISS-32

26-30 September 2011 Budapest, Hungary

Hosted by Hungarian Association for Geo-Information

Application Subgroup — Tuesday September 27

Lola Olsen

9:05 a.m. International Directory Network (IDN) Interest Group and Status Updates

- ♦ Statistical Usage
- ♦ Contributions to GEOSS (GEOSS Metric Reporting Tool)
- ♦ Contributions to CWIC
- ♦ What's New
- ♦ UARS: The Data Still Lives
- ♦ Future Plans (Progress with Keyword Management)